

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-13 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CPR-02

L-03 M-03 A-01 FBO-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01 /130 W

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R 151355Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0309

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR ABLD LY

SUBJECT: DEMAND FOR MISSIONS' PROPERTIES

SUMMARY: THE LATEST PIECE OF XENOPHOBIA FROM THE POPULAR REVOLUTION IS A DEMAND BY LOCAL POPULAR COMMITTEES, NO DOUBT INSPIRED BY ELEMENTS IN THE LARG, TO SUMMARILY EVICT AT LEAST FOUR DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS HERE FROM THEIR PROPERTY HOLDINGS, WHETHER OWNED OR LEASED, THAT OVERLOOK TRIPOLI HARBOR. MISSIONS EXPLICITLY AFFECTED ARE THE BRITISH, ITALIAN, TURKISH, AND U.S. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY STORY OF JULY 15 PROVIDES ONLY DETAILS WE HAVE AT THIS POINT: QUOTE TRIPOLI, JULY 15TH, ARNA: THE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEES FOR THE QUARTERS OF MIZRAN, UQBA IBN NAFEI, ABU EL KHEIR AND ARADA HAVE ISSUED ALMOST IDENTICAL DECISIONS CALLING FOR THE REMOVAL OF PREMISES OF FOREIGN EMBASSIES AND RESIDENCES OF FOREIGN DIPLOMATS FROM AL FATEH STREET, IT WAS REPORTED HERE TODAY.

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2. IN PREAMBLES TO THEIR DECISIONS, THE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEES HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFEGUARDING THE HOMELAND'S INTERESTS AND REVOLUTIONARY GAINS AND ASSERTED THE NECESSITY OF SECURITNG SECRECY OF WORK BY KEEPING EMBASSY PREMISES AWAY FROM VITAL ESTABLISHMENTS AT TRIPOLI SEAPORT AND AL FATAH STREET.

" THE EMBASSY PREMISES MENTIONED IN THE DECISIONS WERE:

A. ITALIAN EMBASSY AND RESIDENCE OF THE AMBASSADOR.

2. BRITISH EMBASSY AND RESIDENCE OF THE AMBASSADOR.

3. TURKISH EMBASSY AND RESIDENCE OF THE AMBASSADOR.

4. RESIDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES' AMBASSADOR.

5. ANY EMBASSY OR DIPLOMATIC RESIDENCE AT AL FATEH STREET OR NEAR TO IT.

" THE PEOPLE'S COMMITTEES GAVE NOTICES OF ONE TO TWO MONTHS FOR THESE EMBASSIES TO MOVE, AND ASKED THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE MUNICIPALITY AND THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND PUBLIC PREMISES TO PROVIDE NEW PREMISES FOR THE EMBASSIES AND DIPLOMATS CONCERNED.

"SOME PEOPLE'S COMMITTEES CALLED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEPARATE QUARTER FOR FOREIGN EMBASSIES AND THEIR DIPLOMATS. END QUOTE.

2. WHAT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN OVERLOOKED, TEMPORARILY, IS THAT USG OWNS NOT ONLY THE RESIDENCE ON AL-FATAH STREET BUT A CHOICE PLOT OF LAND ADJACENT TO ITALIAN CHANCERY, I.E. OUR "LUNGOMARE SITE", WHICH WAS ACQUIRED TO BUILD A CHANCERY.

3. ASSUME THAT IN TIME WE WILL HEAR FROM MFA ABOUT THIS DEMAND AND THAT THE MINISTRY WILL PLAY ITS USUAL HELPLESS ROLE IN PROTECTING RIGHTS OF FOREIGN MISSIONS HERE. MY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OWN INSTINCTS ARE TO STAND PAT ON OUR PROPERTY RIGHTS, THE VIENNA CONVENTION, ETC, AND NOT TO COOPERATE IN LOOKING FOR ALTERNATE SITES AS ADUMBRATED ABOVE. THIS MAY GIVE PAUSE TO THE DRIVE TO OUST THE MISSIONS AS IN THE LAST ANALYSIS LARG WOULD THEN HAVE TO USE FORCE TO TAKE OVER THE PROPERTIES, SOMETHING THEY MAY BE LOATHE TO DO (AS IN CASE OF MY HOUSE, WHICH IS MERELY RENTED).

4. WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH OTHER MISSIONS AFFECTED AND
REPORT THEIR COLLECTIVE WISDOM ON THIS COMMON PROBLEM,
MORE ACUTE IN THEIR CASES AS THEIR PROPERTIES IN QUESTION
ARE OCCUPIED. BRITISH IN PARTICULAR HAVE BEEN PARRYING
MFA AND MUNICIPAL DEMANDS FOR THEIR CHANCERY FOR ABOUT
THREE YEARS NOW. NEW ELEMENT IS THAT DEMAND COMES FROM
POPULAR COMMITTEES, WHICH ARE "SOVEREIGN" ACCORDING
TO QADHAFT'S THEORIES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TRIPOL00928
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TRIPOLI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730733/aaaaaxsm.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <06-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEMAND FOR MISSIONS' PROPERTIES SUMMARY: THE LATEST PIECE OF XENOPHOBIA FROM THE
TAGS: PFOR, ABLD, LY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005